



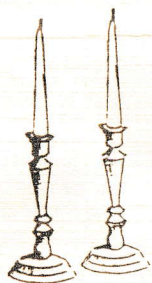
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Greenfield Hall

Volume 36, No. 1

343 King's Highway East • Haddonfield, NJ 08033

March, 1992



ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT DINNER

The Society's annual Candlelight Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 1992 at Tavistock Country Club. Our own members, Elizabeth and George Lyons, will present an illustrated lecture, **HADDONFIELD AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY**, portraying the life and times of Samuel Nicholson Rhoads.

Our dinner meeting promises a festive evening of fun and fellowship. Informal greetings begin at 6:30 P.M. with dinner following at 7:00 P.M. Reservations are \$25.00 per person. A form for your convenience has been included inside the bulletin. Please be sure to return the form before March 8.

For further information contact Susan Hunter at the Society, 429-7375.

HADDONFIELD AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

Samuel Nicholson Rhoads

Progress over the years has brought modern improvements to Haddonfield along with many traffic lights, fewer green spaces, and a certain hustle and bustle.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's, the view of our town was of a kinder, gentler place. The village was still used as a summer resort by residents of Philadelphia who appreciated the fact that it was a quiet country area. In Crow's Woods, Redman's Woods, and Evan's Pond a multitude of wild plants and animals thrived.

But even then changing modes of transportation were beginning to transform the local scene. Automobiles had recently been introduced. Trolleys ran on Main Street in town, then via Haddon Avenue all the way to Camden. Haddonfield was a major stop on the railroad between Atlantic City, Philadelphia, and New York.

Today we remember many notable people who lived here during that era. Among them was Samuel Nicholson Rhoads, a founder of our Society along with James Lane Pennypacker and Mrs. Ephraim T. Gill. He was a Quaker, a bookseller, nature lover, collector, amateur scientist, a participant in civic affairs.

Join us at the Candlelight Dinner on March 18 for an illustrated lecture by Betty and George Lyons, "Haddonfield at the Turn of the Century", as the story of our village is revealed through the eyes of a distinguished citizen of that period, Samuel Nicholson Rhoads.



OUR SPEAKERS

Elizabeth Alice Lyons and George Stuart Lyons are well-known in Haddonfield. Lifelong residents, the sister and brother have been serious researchers of historic facts pertaining to our town and its early residents.

Their love of history and their love of traveling have combined to allow them to search for information not only locally but also at the source. These avid world travelers made seven visits to England to do historical research on Elizabeth Haddon and her family for whom our town is named.

Among their many projects has been buying local homes for rental purposes. Three of these are turn-of-the-century houses; one includes lumber which had been used in the New Jersey Building at the 1876 Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia.

Both Betty and George have held various offices in the Historical Society of Haddonfield. They also have been past presidents of the Audubon Wildlife Society. Throughout the years they have taken thousands of travel, historical and nature photographs which have been shared with many organizations.

Historical columns written by them have been published in the Haddon Gazette, the Courier-Post, and in Things Olde.

This varied background led them to select Samuel Nicholson Rhoads as the subject of their talk at the Dinner Meeting. Their illustrated lecture is the result of extensive research which they have done on the Rhoads' papers and on communication they have had with the Rhoads' descendants.

Make your reservations now for this exciting evening!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The new year is a time for resolutions. Maybe you can add to your list the resolution to say "yes". Say "yes" to the annual Candlelight Dinner. Say "yes" when you're asked to serve on the Board. Better yet, don't wait for a phone call; call me and volunteer for whatever you'd like to do.

The Interpretive Plan Committee has met and is now investigating how to most effectively use our building and collections. At this time we are considering how to provide better space for our library, utilization of the Hip Roof House, the appropriate use of both the third floor and that favorite catch all, the little room on the second floor. Do you have any suggestions? Please call and share your ideas with me.

Our second annual "Dinner in the Grand Style of Greenfield Hall" was held on January 11. Nine of our members served dinner to Mrs. Frances Barnes and her guests. They were such fun to serve that the committee had a terrific evening. Many thanks to Stacy Lagakos and Mary Berk for the delightful piano and flute music. They certainly helped to make it a grand evening for all of us. Many thanks also to our board members who worked hard selling raffle tickets.

Our June Fair Committee is looking for a lot of volunteers. We need game and garage workers, cooks and bakers, and many more. There's something for everyone. Please say "yes" when the Fair Committee calls. With everyone working, we can have fun and benefit the Society as well.

What makes this year's Fair different? The AUCTION is back!!! Yes, right in the center of all the festivities, the auction returns to its old home. So please think Fair/Auction when you're spring cleaning, redecorating, getting ready to move, or cleaning out the attic. Either donate your items - we'll provide a receipt - or give us your items on consignment. We can also arrange pick-up service. Please call the office, 429-7375, for more information.

Dianne Snodgrass and her assistants, both members and high school students, deserve a hearty thank you for a terrific toy exhibit in December. The exhibit was well-received by the public and, on a later date, by the community's Scout groups. Our appreciation to all of you.

Have you visited Greenfield Hall recently? Our building is looking better than ever. Bob Evans, our Acquisitions Chairman, and Jim Westcott, Exhibits Chairman, are changing and rearranging. Many things that have been stored for some time are out and it's wonderful. Take note of the dining room table. It's lovely!

I hope to see all of you at the Candlelight Dinner. Connie Reeves and Debbie Mervine are planning a great evening.

Stay warm!
Deborah Moore

HADDONFIELD HISTORIANS

We are proud that two of our former presidents, Katherine M. Tassini and Douglas Rauschenberger, were appointed to become the first Haddonfield Historians. The Borough Commissioners created the new position to be able to bring more emphasis to the town's historical landmarks.

Our congratulations are extended to Kathy and Doug.

DINNER IN THE GRAND STYLE OF GREENFIELD HALL by Frances Barnes

It was certainly a dinner in the "grand style". I would like to share with you the enjoyable evening spent at Greenfield Hall.

When I purchased a raffle ticket last spring, I had no idea that I would be the lucky winner.

But I was, and on January 11, nine friends and I went to Greenfield Hall for a lovely treat.

When we entered the Hall, we were greeted by a staff of young ladies -- Deborah Moore, Debbie Mervine, Mickey Mack, Kathy Chesbro, Jan Baresel, Dianne Snodgrass, and Myra Kain -- who prepared and were to serve the dinner. I felt like a celebrity, or at least like one of the actors in the TV show, "Upstairs, Downstairs" greeting the staff. Beautiful flowers seemed to be everywhere. As we enjoyed champagne, music provided by a young lady on the flute and a young man on the piano filled the air. My friends had a good time on a tour of the house led by Connie Reeves.

I sat at the head of the table where the little silver bell was placed. This gave me a bit of power - I rang the bell and the young ladies hurried in to clear the table and serve the next course. The table was beautifully set for ten, and after our glasses were filled, I said the blessing and the first course was served.

The menu was a huge success! A delicious consomme, a salmon loaf, followed by a sorbet to refresh the palate. The entre was a stuffed fillet of beef with a wine and shallot sauce which Debbie served from a silver tureen, sweet potatoes in the shell, and green beans. After the main course, finger bowls were brought in; this caused a lot of conversation and laughter.

Completing the dinner was a landscaped table of sugar-coated fruit, then a delicious trifle for dessert, with coffee, candy and nuts.

It was an evening to be remembered. So, be sure to buy your ticket early for the next raffle. You may be as lucky as I was.

Now, being a "ding-a-ling" myself, it's time to ring the silver bell and sign off. But, thinking back over the years, remembering how it was before radio and television, about time spent with family, I'm afraid sometimes we are moving too fast. Take time to stop and smell the roses.

Have your friends join the Historical Society of Haddonfield and enjoy the way it was.

In appreciation for a beautiful evening, thank you.

TOWARD A MODERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our computer, a gift from Sally Price Eynon, continues to be utilized to modernize the operations of the Society. Susan Hunter, our Coordinator, has accomplished the task of transferring our accounting records from a manual system to the computer. A new chart of accounts provides the means for daily entry transactions and the availability of instant year-to-date figures.

This computer facility permits us to know at anytime the status of income and expenses by account. Updated information is immediately available. Monthly statements can help to guide us through the year with related comparisons to the yearly budget.

Our thanks to Susan for another job well done!

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE REPORT

The Women's Committee is happy to report that the Holly Festival was a big success this year. The weather was good, the holly beautiful, and the baked goods delicious. The baskets of greens were professionally decorated by our members, the Williamsburg boxwood balls as popular as ever, and the tables of crafts overflowing with enticing items. As a result, we had a sell-out of the Society's offerings for a net of \$1,089.76.

The Committee offers heartfelt thanks to those who helped prepare for the Festival and to all who participated. Several members generously donated well-berried holly which is always our specialty. Some unique crafts were donated by local craftspeople for the sale. The Society commemoratives and publications were very popular, as usual. A few bean soup mix packages are still available at Greenfield Hall.

The Women's Committee plans to run the Garage Sale for the June Fair again this year. This is a lot of work but is also a lot of fun. You are all welcome to join us. Remember the sale when you start your spring clean-out and throw-out. Also, don't forget the auction. Donations are needed.

The Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 10:00 A.M., at Greenfield Hall. All women Society members are automatically Committee members. We urge all of you to become active participants and attend our meetings. Join us for coffee and refreshments and a very friendly welcome!

Mary Jane Freedley
Chairman, Women's Committee

WANTED: Volunteers

Do you have a few hours on one Saturday a month to participate in an important project?

The Society's clothing collection is in need of attention, and in order to give it its due, we need your help - to catalog, photograph, and prepare the collection for storage.

Please call Mickey Mack at 795-6823 and tell her you'd like to join this interesting group of volunteers.

ANOTHER REQUEST, PLEASE...

We are pleased with your response to the request in our last bulletin. Now we have another one.

The French family of Moorestown became an integral part of Greenfield Hall in 1841 with the marriage of John Gill IV, who inherited the property, to Elizabeth French.

One of our members has researched Elizabeth French Gill and would like to purchase the two-volume set of the French Genealogy. If anyone who owns the set would be willing to part with it, please contact the Society, 429-7375.

"WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY" STILL OPEN

If you read the article in the last March newsletter, you may already know that last year, Congress opened a "window" for one year, allowing taxpayers to deduct from their income taxes the full market value of artworks, manuscripts, decorative arts and historical items given to tax-exempt organizations. The good news is, Congress (owing to the enduring persistence of Lobbyists) has extended the law through June 30, 1992.

Just to review what this means to potential donors, let's say you purchased a Chippendale camelback sofa in 1960 for \$600.00. Today, that same sofa has appreciated in value to \$8,500.00. If you were to donate the sofa to the Historical Society by June 30, 1992, you could take a tax deduction for the full appreciated value of \$8,500.00. (Also worth noting, that tax deduction can be spread out over five years.) When the existing tax law goes back into effect after June 30, 1992, you would only be allowed to realize a deduction of \$600.00, the price you paid for it in 1960.

The "window" was extended for obvious reasons. Nationwide, there was an outcry from museums, libraries, and universities that insisted the public was losing out as works of art were sold and whisked off to foreign countries and the results of the one-year "window" prove it. For example, in 1990 when the tax law was less than favorable to donors, the Philadelphia Museum of Art received 239 objects for the entire year. In 1991, the museum received 579 gifts.

The reason we bring this subject up again, of course, is that the Historical Society continues to add to its wish list. Although monies are being raised and set aside for the purchase of specific items to enhance our collections, there is obviously not enough to buy everything we need. This is by no means a comprehensive list, but it includes the following:

- A set of 4, 6, or 8 dining chairs
- Rugs and carpets in a range of sizes, from 3' x 5' to 12' x 20'
- Lighting fixtures, from candlesticks and lamps to chandeliers
- Small tables: consoles, drop-leaf, work tables, stands
- Mirrors: Chippendale, Federal, Empire
- Porcelain: Chinese export, Staffordshire - dishes, bowls, soup tureen, tea pots, etc.
- Sofa and wing chair
- Early furniture for the Sarah Hopkins house - chairs, tables, beds, chests of drawers, etc.

If you have anything you think might be of interest to the Historical Society, please contact us. Remember, a gift to the Society before June 30, 1992, reaps you appreciation in two ways: the fair market value deduction you will receive and the appreciation of the public for years to come. Thanks to all for your consideration.

LIBRARY NEWS

There is exciting news for the whole Society from the library this month. In December we received a major gift from Mardee Wittwer of Oldwick, N.J. in memory of her husband, Norm Wittwer. The gift consists of eight boxes of manuscript materials relating to Haddonfield and some of its earliest inhabitants. The core of the collection are the papers of John Estaugh Hopkins, grand-nephew of Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh, and one of her principal heirs. In addition there are several items relating to John Estaugh, Elizabeth's husband, an agreement between Elizabeth and her nephew, Ebenezer Hopkins, regarding the keeping of a cow, and a number of letters relating to the Pennsylvania Land Company dealings of the Haddons, Estaughs and Hopkins.

John Estaugh Hopkins inherited New Haddonfield Plantation (201 Wood Lane) upon the death of his great Aunt, Elizabeth Estaugh. Included in the papers are John's marriage certificate to Sarah Mickle dated 1762, shortly after the death of Elizabeth. Also included are a number of letters from his son, John M. Hopkins, who lived in Charleston, S.C. in the early 19th century and a large number of receipts and legal transactions carried on here in Haddonfield from 1760 to 1806. The papers, when organized and inventoried, will be an invaluable addition to our knowledge of the community in the 18th century and the people who lived here.

In addition to the Haddon, Estaugh and Hopkins material contained in the papers, there are a number of items relating to the Reeves, Glover and Bannister families who lived in Haddonfield from the early 19th century. These papers include store ledgers, receipt books and even an early "cook book" from these families. Mr. Wittwer was the nephew of Rebecca Glover through whom these papers were inherited.

Joe Hartel and I are hard at work organizing and inventorying these materials for the Society and hope to have them available for Society use within the next few months.

This is truly a major gift to the Society and to the study and understanding of the history of this area. We cannot adequately express our gratitude to Mardee Wittwer for her generosity in seeing that these materials found their way "home" to Haddonfield.

Kathy Tassini
Librarian

SOME RECENT LIBRARY GIFTS

Mrs. John W. Weatherby in memory of Miss Selma L. Gee:

Five framed Civil War letters from John Beyer to his sister, Mrs. Susannah Carhart.

John Reisner: Postal Cards of Camden County

Kim Adler: Ration Book No 2 from WWII (belonged to a Haddonfield resident). Olden's NJ Road Map 1924.

Marion Willits: Photocopy of Haines Family Bible Record pages.

Mary Bauer: Photocopies of a number of Gill Family inventories and photographs. Photographs and items relating to the Reilly family and St. John's Military Academy.

J. H. Bower, Jr.: Items relating to local builder L.H. Sinquette. Book: Horner, M.W., History of Evesham Township, 1961.

Paul Jepson: Photo copy of Indentury-found in attic of 19 Potter Street, dated March 25, 1830.

Mr. Wm. C. McKenna: Family Bible record pages from Hinchman family Bibles. Hinchman family copy of Prowell's History of Camden County, NJ 1886.

A BIG WELCOME

to our new members and MANY THANKS to all who responded to our reward offer. Fifteen new members joined as a result of your efforts and rewards have been sent to those who suggested them.

New Members

Dorothy & Robert Herbert
William J. Alford, IV
Kathryn I. Allen
Mae E. Marsden
Mary Nazak
Marjorie S. Richardson
Levato Thomas
Barbara & Robert R. Bachman
Mary & Albert Bauer
Mary Grace Elliott
Jane & Edward Poynton

Eleanor & William Reifsteck
Mary & Byron Swackhamer
Donna Levine
Joseph Quigley
G. Frederick Rexon
Roberta & Raymond Acampora
Ginny & William G. DeLong
Debra & David Rushton
Rose Dovi
Virginia Dobie
Susan D. Van Cola

Sustaining Members

Marion Chorley
Deborah W. Troemner
Charlesanna Fallstick
Katherine G. Haydock

Frances R. Lax
Edith Holgate
Gladys & James Johnson
Frederick Fox, Jr.

Life Members

Betty Van Hart Donovan
Harriet Gotchel Monshaw

Mrs. Frank Farina
James D. Westcott

MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS

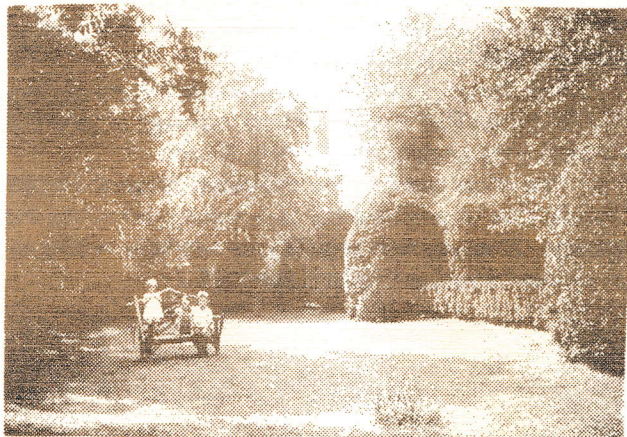
We know that he didn't, but we feel sure that he would have if he could have. So we're including a "recommendation" of a rather famous personality.

"I cannot tell a lie", George emphasized. "As soon as I crossed the Delaware and took care of the Hessians, I hurried to Haddonfield to join the Historical Society."

Instead of depending on George to do it, won't you recommend our Society to your friends? And if you know of any more "famous" recommendations, please share them with us.

Did you know ...

...that the box bushes behind Greenfield Hall in the 1920's were about 15 feet high, the second largest in the United States - second only to Mt. Vernon?



Annual Candlelight Dinner

You are cordially invited to attend the annual
Candlelight Dinner
of the Historical Society of Haddonfield

Wednesday, March 18, 1992
Tavistock Country Club

Cash Bar and Hors D'oeuvres at 6:30 P.M.
Dinner at 7:00 P.M.

Program: "Haddonfield at the Turn of the Century"
With Elizabeth and George Lyons

For further information call Susan Hunter, 429-7375

Dinner Menu

Cream of Watercress Soup
Tossed Garden Salad

Boneless Stuffed Breast of Chicken Florentine
Roasted New Potatoes with Rosemary
Stir-fried Vegetables with Sesame
Rolls Butter
Warm Apple Crisp
Coffee - Tea

If you have any dietary problems, please let us know; Tavistock will be happy to accommodate you.

Candlelight Dinner

The Historical Society of Haddonfield
343 King's Highway East - Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Number attending at \$25.00 per person _____ Total \$ _____

Reserved seating will not be available.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AT GREENFIELD HALL

by Betty VanHart Donovan



They say that every house has its own special and significant aroma. Greenfield Hall certainly is no exception. If I were blindfolded, I would only have to walk into the entry hall at "343" to know where I was and experience a flood of lovely memories.

When I look back at my childhood and early 'growing up', the years that stand out above all the rest are the first ten years of my life - 1920 to 1930 - spent at Greenfield

Hall. There was just my brother and I and mother and dad, but the neighborhood supplied twenty more "kids" and we all lived and played in the wonderland that surrounded 343 Kings Highway East.

Mother and Dad seemed to know everything that would fascinate children:

- A huge swing built on cables that was hung from the top of a gigantic tree and went "miles" in the air ... so far that we were above the backyards of Regnillah Avenue!
- A ski jump that Dad built on the hill that came from Regnillah all the way down to the bottom of the pasture,
- A horse for my brother to break and ride, that seemed to know to gallop at full speed under a branch of a tree to unseat and/or decapitate the rider,
- Two wonderful sheep to keep the lawns manicured,
- Bunny rabbits for me,
- English setters with litter upon litter of puppies - 20 altogether at one particular time,
- Bessie, our cow, a sweet lovely creature, and her adorable calf.

Is it any wonder that we always had a host of kids to enjoy it all?

John - half of our John and Mary live-in couple - loved Bessie and had as much fun with her as all of us did. Every one of the neighbor kids had at one time or another come to watch the milking process. If it was their first experience as they leaned over John's shoulder, he would be sure to anoint them with a stream of milk, right in the face, directly from the source! I can still see John's gleaming white toothy smile as a result of his mischief. Our compensation for carrying the milk back up to the house was that we would be allowed a turn at the butter churn and watch for the butter to appear. At least once a week there was homemade ice cream to be made with a turn for all who were there to help. Then waiting with bated breath and watery mouth to see who would be the lucky one chosen to lick the paddles.

A few flashbacks come to mind:

- We sharpened willow switches and stuck crab apples on the ends to compete to see who could sail them furthest over the milking barn for Bessie to munch;
- We gathered beautiful currants for Mary to make jelly to accompany our game dinners that Dad and my brother, Earl, so often provided;

- The player piano in the front living room - a source of joy for one and all -- with singing and dancing to that special sound;

- Ping-pong games in the dining room; Dad got a huge piece of plywood and after dinner was cleared away would cover the dining table for a hard fought game. How many wives and mothers would be willing to put up with ping-pong balls bouncing off the best china and silver in the grand dining room?!

- My Aunt Bessie Newkirk at the front window on a snowy day, showing me the wonders of snowflakes as they fell on my tam-o-shanter;

- Grandmother teaching me to tat and knit and she and I making endless wardrobes for all my dolls, some of which I have to this day;

- Mother letting me play with *her* doll on special occasions. (Grandmother had had mother's beautiful auburn hair put on this doll and she still has a place of honor in my bedroom);

- Walking to Friends School, - and if we timed it just right and were just late enough, Pete, the policeman at the Grove Street, King's Highway corner, would say he'd better take us or we'd be late and off we'd go in his motorcycle side-car! What a thrill!

- Then later to Tatem School and the walk down Regnillah Avenue where we'd pick up kids all along the way and arrive in quite a noisy group.. old fashioned "bussing" without a bus;

- Walking up to the ice cream parlor next to the movie theatre for vanilla ice cream cones and lots of jimmies!

- Up the wooden steps to the penny-candy store (why can't I remember those two nice ladies' names who ran the store?) for Mary Janes, licorice sticks, wax "babies" full of sweet colored liquid, bubble gum, wintergreen leaves, and colored candy dots on strips of paper.

One day, one of my brother's friends (or was it my brother?) pushed me in the Houseman's fishpond next door. The boys claimed I jumped in! In 40 degree temperature?! Mother got me into a steaming hot tub and dad came in with a small bottle and a teaspoon. He said, "This won't taste good but it will warm you up and keep you from catching cold.." He gave me a teaspoon of the liquid. My reply to the "medication" was, "O-oh, that tastes good!" Mother and Dad couldn't hide their laughter at the reaction to my first taste of brandy!

The house itself was a child's dream. The large drawers in the attic held all our toys and treasures. Earl discovered that if you got in the end drawer and had someone close you in, there opened a secret passage leading to a small completely obscured room behind the chimney. I was always too chicken to try the adventure. I wish to this day that I had. We had always heard stories that Hessian soldiers were hidden in the wine cellar during the war. Could this little room have been their hiding place instead? It's always been a mystery. I kick myself for not being brave enough to go in that little room. But I was always afraid that my brother and friends would have kept me in there for a couple of weeks. When I relate that story to him now he says "Oh, maybe just one week!"

On July 4th Dad would unfurl a tremendous American flag from the third floor window that covered almost half of the front of the house. It was a thrilling sight to see.

As the Bauers recalled, we all took our turns at sliding down the banister, past the old Grandfather's clock that even then stood on the first landing. I remember my fascination with the man-in-the-moon who made his monthly trip across the face of the clock. One of our favorite games was when Dad pulled the cover off a golf ball (they were wound with rubber bands then) and one person would stand on the third floor and one at the bottom of the circular stairs. The ball would fall from the top of the house on the rubber band to the bottom and the prize for catching it before it bounced up again was to attain the position at the third floor. The trips up and down the three flights were pretty good exercise for a rainy day. I'd hate to have to make it even half way up today, at the pace we went.

What is now the terrace at the back of the house was then a screened-in porch. After dinner we would gather on the porch many nights - any and all neighbors welcome - around the RCA Victor radio and listen to Amos and Andy. I can still smell the wonderful strange smell that came from the radio -- the three black dials that had to be tuned just so and that "magic" horn. What was that delicious scent?

By now you can see that my reminiscences are all wrapped in lovely scents. The box bushes were among my favorites. I have planted a dozen of them around my house in Princeton and love the memories they evoke. Another was the smell of tar and when the workmen would mend the cracks in Roberts Avenue, we would pick up the soft black tar and chew it! One of the kids said it made your teeth white! Can you imagine-and we're still here to tell the tale! I don't think our parents were in on this one!



Christmas time at Greenfield Hall was another child's dream come true. We went sledding or ice skating on Evan's Pond Christmas Eve day. There always seemed to be snow for good sledding or ice for good skating in those days. We'd get back to the house cold and happy and gather in the keeping room -- my favorite room, I think -- to warm and dry before the great fire. When we were all snug and warm there would be a Christmas Eve supper with hot chocolate and marshmallows -- and then the important job of stretching our stockings! We'd find our very largest stocking - mine the white "over-the-knee" type of course. We'd get the biggest oranges and apples we could find and stuff the stocking full, trying to stretch the daylights out of them. Dad got such a charge out of this and always warned that if Santa happened to see the operation there'd be lots of room for the coal he'd leave! That usually put an end to my stretching process, but my brother (7 years older) didn't seem to be affected by this threat.

Carolers would usually arrive about this time and serenade us. We'd throw open the front door and windows and join their songs. What a Christmas card setting it made!

CHRISTMAS MORNING!! My stretched stocking had mysteriously made its way from the keeping room fireplace mantle to the bottom post of my four poster bed. If I waited until the first rays of dawn I was allowed to open all the little individually wrapped presents by myself--a ruse I see now to keep me in bed an extra half-hour or so. Then when all four of us were ready and in bathrobes and slippers we'd steal down the stairs. I could always lead the way.

The tree reached from the floor to ceiling in the front living room and it was breathtaking. I didn't think of it at the time, but someone had been there before us (John or Dad ... or Santa Claus) because all the lights were lit on the tree, the candles were lit and glowing and there were warming log fires in all the fireplaces. Holly and beautiful decorations were everywhere. The place was transformed from the night before and it had all taken place after I went to bed. How did they do it?!

My most vivid memory of a Christmas present (I must have been 5 or 6) was a little stove with pots, pans and bowls for cooking, even a little egg-beater. (Some of my happiest hours were spent in the kitchen helping Mary, and I still love to cook.) Dad took one of the little bowls and excused himself. He came back a few minutes later with a little bowl half filled with what looked very much like the white of an egg. He told me to use my beater. I did and got a beautiful bowl of "beaten egg whites." But a slight odor emanating from the bowl gave Dad away - his Fitch's Dandruff Shampoo!

If I were allowed to go on this 'article' would end up a tome about the size of "War and Peace" because every recollection brings to mind another memory, and every memory brings a warm and grateful sensation ... grateful because I was blessed to be able to spend those wonderful years in the heavenly setting of Greenfield Hall... grateful too that I was blessed with parents who knew exactly how to make a child's life a treasure, and grateful that, at age 71, I am able to remember it all so vividly.

Thanks to the Historical Society for the opportunity to relive a beautiful dream.

Betty Van Hart Donovan has lived in Princeton since her marriage in 1946. "When I had to leave Haddonfield..which I said I would never do ... Princeton was the only alternative I would consider. It's similar in many ways and just as beautiful..but a little part of me is still back in Haddonfield".

Betty has an impressive list of credits to her name. She is presently on the Board of The Garden State Watercolor Society. Her other interests are golf and surf fishing.

She was a founder of the Garden State Women's Golf Association, won their championship two years, and played in two Women's National Amateur Championships. She was the first coach of the Princeton University Women's Golf Team.

Betty and her husband, Eddie Donovan, a retired Princeton coach, live an active life with their Westie, Cricket. We appreciate her sharing such a happy decade in the annals of Greenfield Hall.

A TABLE IN THE REAR, PLEASE

In these relentlessly stringent times, when every day seems to bring new woes about a national recovery that is easier to revive than a rusty old lawn mower, it is especially gratifying that our wish list in the last issue did not go unnoticed. We received several notable gifts - both monetary and material - and as a result, the dining room we had hoped to assemble in the rear parlor is actually beginning to materialize.

For years, a very tired-looking Empire sideboard has stood guard in the garage, waiting patiently to take its place in the dining room. Hopefully, by this spring it will get its chance. Probably of Philadelphia origin, circa 1840, it is missing veneer, a cupboard door is hanging by one hinge, its brasses have been removed and it presently sports a thick coat of molasses-like varnish that all but obscures its contrasting crotch veneers. Still, it's far from a lost cause and restoration will soon be under way.

Following its makeover, the sideboard will join a late Sheraton mahogany D-end banquet table of about the same vintage - a recent gift. Together, the two pieces have created a point of view for the room; specifically, a dining room as it might have appeared in the first years the Gills lived in their new home.

Another recent gift to take its place in our newly-forming dining room is a large coffee urn in the Neoclassical style. It appears to be Sheffield, dating from the early 19th century. Only traces remain of the silver that once covered its copper shell. According to an accompanying note written by Hannah Reeves, a former owner in 1893, the urn was used regularly at the quarterly meetings of the Friends Meeting in Haddonfield. The urn is a welcome addition to our collection.

Finally, a portion of a generous gift to the Society will be supplemented with other gifts and funds to restore our existing collection as well as to purchase chairs to complement our table and sideboard. The search is on for a set of four, six or eight chairs - period or good reproduction - stylistically from late 18th to mid-19th century. Obviously, price will be a consideration, but if you know of a set that is available, please contact the society.

To fill out the room, we are also looking for a pier mirror for the back wall, a soup tureen for the sideboard and a large porcelain punch bowl for the dining table. Again, if you have any leads, please let us know.

That's what's cooking in our dining room right now. In the coming months, no one will need ask, "What did the Gills make for dinner? Reservations?" Because visitors will get an accurate depiction of what a dining room looked like in the 1840's. So even though the kitchen is closed, our dining room will be opening soon. A table will be waiting for you in the rear. Do come.

Bob Evans
Acquisitions Chairman



RECIPE FROM GREENFIELD HALL

Mickey Mack's sweet potatoes were a big hit at the "Dinner in the Grand Style of Greenfield Hall". She has graciously agreed to share the recipe with us.

Sweet Potato Surprise

(This recipe is for two. It can be increased to accommodate your needs.)

1 8-9 oz. sweet potato, scrubbed, baked and cut in half lengthwise

1 teaspoon margarine

1 oz. cooked, smoked ham, diced

1 tablespoon chopped onion

Scoop contents of baked sweet potato shell into bowl; put shell aside.

In a small skillet melt the margarine, add the ham and onion, and saute until the onion is tender. Mix with the potatoes in the bowl. Scoop the mixture into each shell, place on baking sheet. Bake in a 400° oven until lightly browned on top.

Topping

In a separate bowl, mix 2 tablespoons sour cream and 1 tablespoon maple syrup. Drizzle over hot potatoes and serve. Expect compliments.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

February 25 - Women's Committee - 10:00 A.M.

March 18- Candlelight Dinner - 6:30 P.M.

24 - Women's Committee - 10:00 A.M.

April 28 - Women's Committee - 10:00 A.M.

May 17 - General Meeting - 2:00 P.M.

26 - Women's Committee - 10:00 P.M.

June 16- Village Fair 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Remember to make your
reservations for the
Candlelight Dinner
now.

We are pleased to acknowledge with great appreciation the following gifts from members and friends:

Garry & Sara Jane Stone	B.F. Fowler Buttonhook found behind wainscoting in the Stone's house on Centre Street
Mary Bauer	Dressing table items belonging to Alletta Langdon Gill
Ralph Formasano	Dried flowers and bouquets for Holly Festival
Mardee Wittwer	Shawl and hot water urn
Susan Reeves Embry	<i>The King's Road</i> , a seriocomic musical tale of the Revolution
Patricia Lennon	Contribution thanking the Society for the use of the building for a Quester meeting

We are grateful also for generous contributions from:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nicholson, Maud Tracy, John Cargill, Doris Weatherby, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bauer, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Acampora, Dr. and Mrs. William DeLong, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Korin, Ruby Oberst.

The Historical Society of Haddonfield
343 King's Highway East
Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033

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